

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE SRI LANKAN POSITIONS ON
ISSUES AT THE UN

AN ARTICLE IN SEPTEMBER 9 CEYLON OBSERVER BY PHILIP COOREY,
POSSIBLY BASED ON A FOREIGN MINISTRY BACKGROUNDER, OUTLINES
SRI LANKA'S POSITIONS ON A NUMBER OF UN AND NON-ALIGNED ISSUES.
TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

"A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF 54 WHICH INCLUDES SRI LANKA IS
WORKING ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT, TO BE TAKEN
UP AT A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN IN MAY/JUNE 1978. THIS IS
A SEQUEL TO THE RESOLUTION ON DISARMAMENT PASSED AT THE COLOMBO
SUMMIT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES LAST YEAR.

"THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION TO THE UN WILL BE INTIMATELY IN-
VOLVED WITH THIS AND VARIOUS OTHER SUBJECTS DURING THE UN
SESSION AS WELL AS THE CO-ORDINATING BUREAU MEETING IN NEW YORK.

"THE UN RESOLUTION ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF STATES, WILL POSSIBLY BE REITERATED BY SRI LANKA, AND THE
OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

"WHERE UN MEMBERSHIP IS CONCERNED SRI LANKA HAS ALWAYS STOOD
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FOR THE UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP. ANGOLA GOT IN LAST TIME,
AND VIETNAM SEEMS SURE THIS TIME. THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP HAS
ALSO INCREASED TO 87, WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF DJIBOUTI.

"AS 49 OF THESE 87 COUNTRIES ARE AFRICAN, NATURALLY AFRICAN
AFFAIRS TEND TO DOMINATE. THE QUESTIONS INVOLVING SOUTHERN
AFRICA WILL OCCUPY AN IMPORTANT PLACE. THE SRI LANKA POSITION
ON SOME ASPECTS: CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID, SUPPORT FOR THE

SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLES ORGANIZATION IN NAMIBIA, AND ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, ARMED STRUGGLE ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT AS THE PRESENT PROPOSALS ARE DEADLOCKED, BRITIAN WILL BRING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL HER PROPOSALS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN QUESTION.

"SRI LANKA IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CONTACT GROUP OF SIX ON CYPRUS. THE OTHERS ARE ALGERIA, GUYANA, INDIA, MALI AND YUGOSLAVIA. THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LATE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS.

"THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ALSO BOUND TO COME UP AT THE UN.

"THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WILL ALSO PLAN STRATEGY AND CO-ORDINATE MOVES FOR THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING OF THE CO-ORDINATING BUREAU COUNTRIES IN KABUL IN MAY 1978. THAT MEETING WILL TAKE STOCK OF THE COMING UN SESSIONS, AND PREPARE FOR THE MEETING OF ALL FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN BELGRADE IN 1979.

"ONE OF THE POINTS THAT OUR DELEGATION WILL EMPHASIZE IS THAT THIS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE VALIDITY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AS A VITAL FORCE, AND WILL BE COMMITTED TO THAT PRINCIPLE, BUT WILL NOT USE THE MOVEMENT MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF PRESTIGE.

"THE QUESTION THAT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO SRI LANKA WILL BE THAT OF THE INIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ). AFTER LAST YEAR'S SUMMIT, THE RESPONSES FROM THE BIGGER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN SLOW, BUT THE DELHI CONFERENCE IN MARCH HAS 'TAKEN NOTE OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE GREAT POWERS RELEVANT TO THE IOPZ'. THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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AND OTHER SPECIFIC STATEMENTS SUCH AS CARTER'S VIEWS ON DEMILITARIZATIN, CYRUS VANCE'S STATEMENTS IN MOSCOW AND PODGORNYY'S STATEMENTS IN TANZANIA ON HIS VISIT TO EAST AFRICA HAVE BEEN ALSO DULY NOTED.

"SRI LANKA'S POSITION RELATES MAINLY TO THE FAVOURABLE RELAXATION OF TENSION RECENTLY, AND THE DISMANTLING OF BASES. IMPLEMENTATION IS ANOTHER MATTER AND THE QUESTION OF THE IOPZ, JUST LIKE THE PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ON THE UN AGENDA FOR A LONG TIME.

"ON THE MIDDLE EAST, SRI LANKA SHOULD SUPPORT THE SYRIAN INITIATIVE AND ORGANIZE A MEETING OF ALL THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, DURING THE UN SESSION, TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION IN GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY ISRAELI MOES TO HAVE SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.

"OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS THE ETHIOPIAN AND THE ERITREAN QUESTION WILL BE LEFT TO THE OAU." END TEXT.

WRIGGINS

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